

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) A distribution strip for use in an absorbent structure comprising cellulosic fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton linters, mercerized cellulose, chemically treated cellulose and mixtures thereof, wherein the chemically treated cellulose is treated with a polyvalent ion selected from the group consisting of aluminum, calcium, magnesium and mixtures thereof, and the distribution strip has a basis weight of between 45 grams per square meter and 140 grams per square meter and has a density of between 0.25 grams per cubic centimeter and 0.55 grams per cubic centimeter.

11. (Original) The distribution strip of claim 10, wherein the distribution strip has a basis weight of between 75 grams per square meter and 110 grams per square meter.

12. (Original) The distribution strip of claim 10, wherein the distribution strip is made by a wet-laid process.

13. (Original) The distribution strip of claim 10, wherein the distribution strip is made by an air-laid process.

14. (Original) The distribution strip of claim 10, wherein one hour after three 100 ml insults to the structure at 20 minute intervals in a last three inches of the fluid storage layer longitudinal and transverse horizontal wicking test, the fluid storage layer has horizontal wicking of 22 g/g or greater.

15. (Original) The distribution strip of claim 10, wherein the distribution strip has a fluid distribution rate of 0.05 grams per second or greater.